

placing the specimen into a container excluding the addition of any degradation-inhibiting agents, wherein the face coming into contact with the specimen is made of or coated with a material,

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cont* wherein said material inhibits the activation of a substance, which substance if not activated, cannot degrade the mammalian natriuretic peptides and is selected from the group consisting of silicone and plastics, and

wherein said specimen does not contain aprotinin.

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**Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.**